

## **Safe TRAINS Act**

### **Bill Summary**

The Safe Transit and Rail Awareness and Investments for National Security (Safe TRAINS) Act of 2004 addresses security of “public transportation systems” nationally. The Bill defines public transportation systems as “passenger, commuter, and light rail, including Amtrak and subways, buses, commuter ferries, and other modes of public transit.” The provisions include:

- 1. Public Transportation Grant Program.** \$2.8 billion over 3 years to support capital and operating activities of owners, operators, and providers of public transportation systems to improve security. Investments eligible include 1) cameras and other surveillance equipment; 2) command, control, and communications systems, including investments in interoperability and redundancy 3) training, technical support and exercises for public transportation employees on security awareness, prevention, emergency response including evacuation, and decontamination; 4) explosive and WMD detection and countermeasures, including canine detection teams; 5) capital improvements and operating activities to increase security of stations, vehicles, bridges, and tunnels; 6) capital improvements and operating activities to improve survivability in the event of an attack, including improvements in ventilation, drainage, fire safety technology, emergency communications systems, lighting systems, passenger egress, and accessibility by emergency response personnel; 7) acquisition of emergency response and support equipment, including fire suppression and decontamination equipment; and 8) public awareness and outreach campaigns to the general public and to public transportation passengers and employees.
- 2. Training Exercises.** Requires grant recipients to submit emergency response plans and undertake exercises for emergency response and public transportation employee training.
- 3. Security Best Practices.** Requires the Secretary to develop and disseminate public transportation security best practices.
- 4. Public Awareness.** Requires the Secretary to develop a national plan to increase awareness of measures the general public and public transportation passengers and employees can take to increase public transportation security.
- 5. Comprehensive Public Transportation Security Plan.** Requires the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation to develop a strategic plan for the security of the nation’s public transport systems and to transmit a report to Congress providing details on such a plan.
- 6. Memorandum of Agreement.** Requires Department of Homeland Security and Department of Transportation to enter into a memorandum of agreement that clearly defines and governs the roles and responsibilities of the respective departments regarding security of public transportation systems.
- 7. Employee Protections.** Strengthens whistleblower protections for public transportation employees.
- 8. Establishes University Transportation Security Centers.** Establishes centers to conduct transportation research, education, and development of training programs.

